

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. John Hopko, Pastor • Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

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Sunday, June 2, 2019

Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man

The Sixth Sunday of Pascha – Tone 5

Also, June 2, annually, is the date of the commemoration of, among others, Saint Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople, Defender of the Holy Icons (d. 828 A.D.)

Schedule of Services

- 6/1 Saturday**
5:30 PM – Memorial Service for departed members of the Oraschewsky Family
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 6/2 Sunday of the Blind Man**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
12:00 NOON – Special Full Parish Meeting in the Waterbury Parish (See note inside bulletin for details)
- 6/3 Monday**
7:00 PM – Terryville Parish Council Meeting
- 6/5 Wednesday**
The Leave-taking of Holy Pascha
Eve of the Feast of the Ascension
(*NO* Matins in the morning!)
6:15 PM – Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Feast
- 6/6 Thursday**
The Feast of the Ascension
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 6/8 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 6/9 Sunday**
The Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 6/12 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 6/15 Saturday**
Eve of Holy Pentecost
Pre-Pentecost Memorial Saturday
5:30 PM – General Memorial Service Commemorating All Departed Faithful
6:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litya
- 6/16 Sunday**
Feast of Holy Pentecost
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy, followed immediately by the Service with the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers
- 6/17 Monday**
6:00 PM – Waterbury Parish Council Meeting (In Waterbury)

NOTES FROM FR. JOHN

Leave-taking of Pascha and Ascension

This week we give away the celebration of Pascha until next year, and we, also, celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. (For more about the Feast of the Ascension, please, see the article on page 2 of this bulletin.)

In our parish, we will mark the Leave-taking (the conclusion) of our annual forty-day-long celebration of Holy Pascha, and, also, celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, with the serving of a Vesperal Divine Liturgy on Wednesday evening, June 5.

That service will start at 6:15 PM, and will begin with a brief Rite of the Leave-taking, during which we will sing, for the last time this year, the joyous and joyful Paschal Troparion: *Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!*

After that brief Rite of Leave-taking, we will then serve the Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension. On the Feast of Ascension we commemorate the occasion, forty days after his resurrection, when Our Lord, Jesus Christ, ascended from earth to heaven.

Let us all make every effort to be present to celebrate these holy days on Wednesday evening this week, thus drawing closer to God, Who loves us, and Who, in the person of Jesus Christ, gave Himself up for us.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for all victims of disaster, difficulty and senseless violence throughout the world.

+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!*

Newly Departed

| | |
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| Marion—Louine King's sister | d. 5/22/2019 |
| Louis Alverides—Marilou Petroff's cousin | d. 5/21/2019 |
| Neonilla (Nilca)—a former, short-time, member of Terryville parish | d. 5/5/2019 |
| Raymond—Ashley Paden's father-in-law | d. 5/4/2019 |
| Sheila—friend of Donna Osuch | d. 4/28/2019 |

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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|--------------------|----------|
| Steven Kraynak | 6/2/1982 |
| Barbara Lisyk | 6/3/1933 |
| Matthew Kopcha | 6/3/1958 |
| Walter Petroff | 6/3/1975 |
| Anna Arburr | 6/4/1986 |
| Michael Rewak | 6/5/1950 |
| John Christophy | 6/5/1964 |
| Julia Kriniske | 6/5/1995 |
| Stephie Mattson | 6/5/2013 |
| Theodora Dubnansky | 6/6/1960 |
| Helen Devine | 6/6/1962 |
| George Kablesh | 6/6/1997 |
| Dimitri Shewchuk | 6/7/1949 |
| Alexei Fomin | 6/8/1942 |
| Anna Kostyk | 6/8/1957 |
| Mary Tadaychuk | 6/8/1961 |
| Joseph Andrash | 6/8/1961 |
| Antonio LaRoche | 6/8/1981 |
| Mary Belik | 6/8/1984 |

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

Persons captive and suffering for the Faith

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

Those who are sick and suffering

His Eminence Archbishop Nikon—ongoing health issues
Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering in serious illness
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
Karen—Mary Fomenko's niece; unwell and in need of prayers

child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; chronic health challenges
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; rehabbing after bilateral lung transplant
Irene Vassos—member of Diocesan Council; injured in fall
Nina Gorbachev—very unwell
Anna Szepel—recently unwell; Waterbury parishioner
Tanya Beach—recovering from brain hemorrhage; laboring in rehabilitation
Mat. Cindy Voytovich—facing health challenges at this time
Barbara—friend of Jack Kriniske; hip replacement surgery followed by complications
Yelena "Lenna" Massicotte—facing serious health challenges at this time
Vincent—Maria Oraschewsky's brother-in-law; battling cancer
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray

Shut-ins and those resident in long-term Care Facilities

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother
Mary Fomenko—serious health situation two weeks ago; now seemingly stabilized
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

Travelers, Those Soon to be Traveling, and Those Apart from Us

All those traveling during these summer months

Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic")
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
Joshua Pcsolyar—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot, now in Afghanistan

Anniversaries of Marriage

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| Grzegorz "Greg" and Oglia (Zyla) Fedorczyk | 6/4 |
| John & Nina Dubnansky | 6/7 |

Birthdays

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| Raisa Dubnansky—John & Nina's daughter | 6/6 |
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The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday. The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:3-11. It is also mentioned in the Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Christ made His last appearance on earth, forty days after His Resurrection from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5). After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

This material is sourced (lightly edited) from this link, <https://www.goarch.org/ascension>, on the official website of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Visit the link for more information about the Feast of the Ascension and other feasts of the Orthodox Church.

News and Notes

Sunday, June 2 – Full Parish Meeting in the Waterbury Parish: On Sunday, June 2, we will have a full meeting of the entire Waterbury Parish Membership. That meeting will begin at 12:00 NOON, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Waterbury Parish Chapel, located within the Parish Center at 3125 N. Main St., Waterbury. The agenda of the meeting is to discuss concerns regarding the Waterbury Parish House (the Rectory), and to discuss concerns regarding the ongoing matter of the Waterbury Parish Temple. We will not be celebrating Divine Liturgy that morning in the Waterbury Chapel. Fr. John will be presiding at the Divine Liturgy being celebrated that morning at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, and then will be traveling over to Waterbury for the meeting. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please, contact Fr. John Hopko, Pastoral Administrator of the Waterbury Parish. Fr. John may be reached at 860-582-3631 (his office landline), or at terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK: Monday, June 3 – Terryville Parish Council Meeting: The June Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council will take place beginning at 7:00 PM, on Monday evening, June 3, in the Terryville Parish Basement Social Hall.

THIS WEEK: The “Paired” Feasts of the Leave-taking of Pascha and the Ascension of our Lord, June 5 and June 6: On Wednesday, June 5, we will commemorate the 40th day of Holy Pascha (Easter) on which we mark the Leave-taking (the conclusion) of the celebration of Holy Pascha. The next day, Thursday, June 6, is the 40th day after Holy Pascha, on which we commemorate the Ascension of Our Lord. We will mark these two “paired” feasts in our parish with one liturgical service, which will be a Vespereal Divine Liturgy celebrated on Wednesday evening, June 5, beginning at 6:15 PM. That service will begin with a brief rite, during which we will “give away” the celebration of Holy Pascha for this year, singing the Paschal Troparion, “Christ is risen...,” for the last time until next year’s celebration of Holy Pascha.

NEXT WEEKEND: Birthdays! Two of our members will be celebrating significant birthdays next weekend, Louine King and John “Jack” Kriniske. We hope that we will all be in Church together with them next Sunday morning, June 9. A festive and enhanced Coffee Social Hour is planned for next Sunday, after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, in order to mark the occasions.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Pre-Pentecost Memorial Saturday, June 15: Saturday, June 15, is the Pre-Pentecost Memorial Saturday this year. Memorial Saturdays, which occur a number of times during the year, are days set apart in the Church’s liturgical calendar for special and careful commemoration of the departed. We will mark the Pre-Pentecost Memorial Saturday with a Memorial Service (“Panikhida”) beginning at 5:30 PM, just before the Vigil of Pentecost (Great Vespers with Litya) that we will serve beginning at 6:00 PM.

Online Donations to the Parish: A PayPal Donation “button” is located on our parish website to make online donations possible. Our parish is registered as a charity with PayPal, so we have slightly lower fees connected to the use of that means of receiving donations. For us, PayPal’s fees are 2.2% + \$0.30 per transaction and no monthly fee. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

Graduates: If you or a member of your family is graduating this spring, please let us know, so that we might share the news with our Parish Family, and offer our congratulations and prayerful best wishes.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sixth Sunday of Pascha, called the Sunday of the Blind Man

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 16:16-34)

At that time, going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were

praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (John 9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our

son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.